

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to peptides comprising an amino acid sequence substantially homologous to the amino sequence of a fragment of a pyrogenic exotoxin, and functional derivatives of said peptides, capable of eliciting protective immunity against toxic shock induced by a pyrogenic exotoxin or by a mixture of pyrogenic exotoxins.

Preferred peptides comprise an amino acid sequence substantially homologous to the amino sequence of a fragment of *Staphylococcal aureus* enterotoxin B (SEB).

The invention also relates to broad spectrum pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment, protection against or short term prophylaxis of toxin-mediated activation of T cells, comprising as active ingredient at least one peptide according to the invention or derivative thereof, and to broad spectrum vaccines for conferring long term immunity against toxic shock induced by at least one pyrogenic exotoxin are provided. The vaccines comprising as active ingredient at least one peptide according to the invention, or derivative thereof.